United States Environmental Protection Agency New England

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Scovill Update

Scovill Industrial Landfill Superfund Site

EPA Superfund Division **October 2008**

Superfund Process

The Superfund process, conducted in several steps over multiple years, leads to the ultimate goal of providing a safe environment for the people living and working around the Scovill Industrial Landfill. The current step in the Scovill Superfund process is to better understand the site's contamination and any potential risks. A detailed study, the Remedial Investigation, is occurring in phases and is identifying the type and extent of the site's contamination. This investigation is conducted in phases as a means of refining the specific knowledge of a site and identifying information gaps which need to be understood before cleanup decisions can be made. The investigation is also collecting the kind and amount of information needed to conduct human health and ecological risk assessments.

Status of Investigation Efforts

Phase I and II of the Scovill Remedial Investigation has been completed. Phase I was conducted by EPA in the fall of 2002 and results were made available in 2003. In 2003, EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order to Saltire Industrial, Inc. (a successor to Scovill Manufacturing Co.) and three other parties requiring them to finish the rest of the investigation. Saltire Industrial's consultant had completed about 90% of Phase II when Saltire declared bankruptcy in July 2004. Saltire's bankruptcy left Phase II investigation work incomplete, 30 drums abandoned on the Calabrese portion of the site, and the cleanup effort without funding. EPA allocated funding in 2005 to finish Phase II by checking the data that had been gathered and making sure the results were accurate. Additional funds were secured and in January 2008 EPA removed the drums which stored waste water, some soil cleaned from the drill rig during sampling, and disposable gloves and overalls. Surveying work to support Phase III was undertaken in May 2008. Environmental sampling for the Phase III investigation is slated to begin in October and conclude in December 2008.

January 2008 drum removal

An example of a small rig

Phase III Fieldwork

A majority of the Phase III fieldwork will focus on the site's perimeter in an effort to better delineate the landfill boundaries and collect sufficient sampling to conduct a human health risk assessment. Sampling will include:

1. Surface Soil Sampling: 52 samples from 0-3 inches below the ground surface will be collected.
2. Subsurface Soil Sampling: 74 additional soil borings or holes will be drilled from 4 inches to 20 feet deep or to below the bottom of the waste, whichever is lowest.
3. Groundwater Monitoring: 24 wells will be sampled including 9 existing wells plus 15 new wells at 9 locations.

Investigation Results Thus Far

Based on Phase I and II results, the most frequently detected contaminants are PAHs, metals, and PCBs. Although these contaminants were detected, this does not mean the levels are high enough to cause health problems. So far, the environmental sample results support the conclusion that the site isn't an immediate public health risk in its current condition because direct contact with landfill waste materials is unlikely.

Background Levels of Contamination

It is not surprising in urban areas to find a range of chemicals in the air, water, or soil, even if the property isn't a hazardous waste site. Chemicals are present simply because of the urban nature of the area. Because of the mixed use of land in developed areas, chemicals either historically or currently get released into the environment. These chemicals become part of the "background levels" that are detected in an area. Because more site data

What Neighbors Should Expect

- Preliminary work will start in early October and will include marking utilities and sampling locations, clearing shrubs and trees, and delivery of a trailer to the fenced Calabrese parcel, to be used for office and storage space. Sampling will start in mid-October.
- Most field work will be done Monday through Friday between 7 am and 7 pm.
- Workers will often wear protective clothing.
- A large and a small drill rig will be used to drill sample holes (called bore holes) and groundwater sampling wells throughout the site. To minimize impact on residential properties where access permission has been granted, the small drill rig will be used.
- EPA's mobile laboratory, which looks like a van, will be on site during portions of the field work to determine which samples will be sent to an EPA-approved laboratory for analysis.
- Air quality will be monitored at the bore hole and around the drill during drilling. Should unsafe air levels be detected, all work will stop immediately, the situation will be evaluated, and corrective steps taken before work resumes.
- Bore holes will be repaired and the property restored to how it previously looked.
- Other subsurface work –like utility work– can happen at the same time as investigation activities, but it must be coordinated with EPA.

Site History

Located north of Meriden Road in Waterbury, CT, the former Scovill Industrial Landfill was used by the Scovill Manufacturing Company from 1919 until the mid-1970s for disposal of ash, cinder, and other wastes. Roughly 23 of the site's 30 acres have been developed with residential structures and small commercial buildings.

Spring 1998
CT Dept. of Environmental Protection removed 2,300 tons of PCB-contaminated soil and an additional 18 capacitors. Temporarily capped area; fenced and posted four acres.

April 1999
EPA took soil samples 0 to 24 inches deep from 57 locations —found elevated levels of organic chemicals; metals such as cadmium, nickel, silver, and zinc; and PCBs. Indoor air sampling in limited number of homes didn't detect contamination.

August 2000
Added to EPA's National Priorities List (NPL - is a list of hazardous waste sites that are eligible for Federal funding to pay for extensive, long-term cleanup actions under the Superfund program).

September 2002
Phase I of the Remedial Investigation began.

June 2003
Phase I Remedial Investigation results made public.

March 2004
EPA issued Unilateral Administrative Order requiring Saltire Industrial, Mr. Calabrese, Calabrese Construction Co. and Store Ave. Assoc. to conduct the Remedial Investigation.

Summer 2004
Saltire started Phase II of the Remedial Investigation and then filed for bankruptcy.

February 2005
EPA files a bankruptcy claim against Saltire. In March 2006 EPA reached settlement with bankruptcy estate, although payment has been delayed pending resolution of other unrelated claims.

January 2008
EPA removes Saltire abandoned drums.

remains to be collected, it is not entirely known at this point how the levels of contamination being detected at the Scovill Industrial Landfill compare to the background levels of chemicals one would expect to find in the Waterbury area. Sampling results of PAHs and metals thus far have found some levels lower or the same as background levels. In some locations, however, results have shown levels higher than background. Once the site investigation is complete, all the results will be compared against background levels and that information will be used in developing a human health risk assessment.

Potential Health Effects

Three main contaminants have been detected at the site so far. Here is some general information about their potential health effects. This information is not meant to imply that the health effects mentioned below would occur from possible exposure at this site.

PAHs, or Polycyclic Aromatic Hydocarbons, are a group of over 100 different chemicals that are formed during the incomplete burning of any organic material such as gasoline, coal, oil, garbage, or meat. PAHs have been shown to cause harmful effects on skin and immune and reproductive systems of animals. It is not known whether these effects occur in people. Some people with high amounts of exposure to PAHs developed skin and lung cancer.

Metals (arsenic, copper, lead, cadmium, vanadium, beryllium, chromium, zinc, and nickel) can cause health impacts at high exposure levels. Lung, nose, or throat irritation can be caused by breathing metals in dust particles or fumes. Skin irritation and stomach and intestinal problems may occur from touching or eating some metals. Some metals may cause lung cancer after breathing high levels for a long time. Lead can harm children's mental and physical development and can affect adult central nervous, kidney, and immune systems.

PCBs, or Polychlorinated Biphenyls, are man-made chemicals that were used in electrical manufacturing. At very high levels, PCBs may cause nose and lung irritation, cancer, and skin rashes. Eating PCB-contaminated fish may cause learning problems in the developing fetus.

Next Steps

After Phase III field work is complete, the results will be analyzed and a report will be compiled. EPA and CT Department of Environmental Protection will evaluate the data, publicly share the results, and determine if there is still a need for more information. If so, a Phase IV investigation would follow sometime in 2009. Otherwise, the information gathered from Phase I, II, and III will be used to develop human health and ecological risk assessments. These risk assessments identify current and potential future risk under various types of possible exposures. These assessments and the information from the complete investigation will help EPA decide if any action is needed at the site, and if so, what needs to be done.

Assistance Available to the Community

EPA values your input. To help communities make informed decisions, EPA can award Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs) of up to $50,000 per site. These TAGs enable communities to hire an independent expert to help them understand technical data and site hazards, and become more knowledgeable about the different technologies that are being used. Your community group may be eligible for a TAG. Contact Robert Shewack for more information at 1-888-372-7341, extension 81428. EPA strongly encourages communities to use this resource.

Exposure can occur when people eat, drink, breathe or have direct skin contact with landfill waste material.
At present, much of the Scovill Landfill material is covered either with a building, paved road, parking lot, or grass.

The site does not present an immediate public health risk, in its current condition, because direct contact with landfill waste materials is unlikely. Digging, gardening or other activities that might expose landfill material should not occur.

For more information visit:
www.epa.gov/region1/superfund/sites/scovill

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